

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 6 October 2020

Report Title: Spotlight Review on Children's Mental Health Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor K Flavell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Senior Officer: Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director People

1. Report Summary

1.1. This report introduces the findings, conclusions and recommendations made by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its Spotlight Review on Children's Mental Health Services, on 24 February 2020.

1.2. The attached report was agreed and endorsed by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 September 2020.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That Cabinet receives the report of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2. That Cabinet responds to the following recommendations:

2.2.1. That the council and partners endeavour to create a clearer pathway and screening tool for assessing the needs of children and young people presenting with mental health issues, with standardised outcome measures across services to make it easier to identify where other improvements may be made in the future.

2.2.2. That commissioners review the current service provision, and access to services, with a view to ensuring that services are commissioned for children and young people up to the age of 25.

- 2.2.3. That a review be undertaken of the Cheshire East Live Well programme, and that as part of this, the council specifically considers access and availability to wellbeing support services for children, young people and their parents/carers.
- 2.2.4. That Cabinet look to use and prioritise the Troubled Families process to improve the level and breadth of support available for parents and carers of children and young people experiencing mental health issues.
- 2.2.5. That commissioners be asked to provide a further update to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2021, on the progress of implementing the Thrive model and an update on service accessibility.
- 2.2.6. That commissioners and providers ensure that the eligibility and accessibility criteria for services is clear and transparent for children and young people and their families/carers.
- 2.2.7. That Cheshire CCG, CAMHS and the council ensure that all staff who support both children's and adults' services, undertake transition training to secure safe and reasonable handovers of cases when young people leave children's services and enter the adult social care system.
- 2.2.8. That commissioners endeavour to ensure that services provided by Visyon are equitable and available across the whole borough of Cheshire East.
- 2.2.9. That Cabinet reviews the council's commission for the Emotionally Healthy Children Programme, with a view to ensure that there is a single commissioning strategy that is aligned to the CCG Mental Health Trailblazer project and make it easier to secure future funding.
- 2.2.10. That the Leader of the council write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Minister for Education, to request further investment to improve the access to therapeutic support services for children and young people in Cheshire East.
- 2.2.11. That the council and NHS partners work together to review the way in which data relating to children and young people's mental health is collected, to more consistently align to national targets and measures.
- 2.2.12. That the Leader of the council write to the Department of Education to request that funding for the Adoption Counts service be continued and prioritised, and encourage each of the partner authorities receiving the Adoption Counts service to do the same, to lobby for more funding for this important service.

- 2.2.13. That full Council be asked to ensure its Budget is adjusted to accommodate the cost required to re-commission Adoption Counts, provided that the other local authorities put forward their contributions also.
- 2.2.14. That the council and partners ensure that the joined-up working arrangements relating to adoption are sustained and properly funded, to secure positive long-term outcomes for adoptive children and families in Cheshire East.
- 2.2.15. That the outcomes of the council's Bespoke Project be reviewed, and its successes be used to inform future commissions and projects.
- 2.2.16. That a review be carried out to ascertain best practice in areas where a 24/7 crisis offer is already in place, and how this type of crisis service could be provided in the most effective, joined-up way in Cheshire East.
- 2.2.17. That the council and Cheshire CCG work together to ensure that commissioning and contract management arrangements are more closely and effectively integrated.
- 2.2.18. That the council monitors the impact of alternative education service provisions to support young people and reduce rates of exclusions.
- 2.2.19. That CAMHS and commissioners urgently review the support provided to children and young people who are unable to leave their homes to attend their scheduled appointments.
- 2.2.20. That commissioners consider the commissioning of specialist health visitors to support schools in their teaching and managing of students' mental health and wellbeing.
- 2.2.21. That CAMHS, Cheshire CCG and the council work together to review and improve the way in which support is targeted and provided to young people that do not attend school, college, training or work due to their mental health struggles.
- 2.2.22. That the council and partners work together to make sure that the offer of online support services is refreshed and promoted, and that it is equitable for all young people in the borough.
- 2.2.23. That schools in Cheshire East be asked to use a consistent title for the designated Mental Health Leads.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. Conversations around mental health have become increasingly prevalent in recent years, with major efforts undertaken to reduce and remove the public stigma relating to mental health and wellbeing issues.

3.2. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is united in its desire to try and achieve positive, sustainable change in the way mental health issues for children and young people are perceived and appreciated across Cheshire East.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. No alternative options were considered.

5. Background

5.1. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee organised to undertake this Spotlight Review on Children's Mental Health Services on 24 February 2020. The aim of the review was to carry out a 'deep dive' review on the range and effectiveness of services and support available to children and young people with mental health issues.

5.2. A number of council services and partner organisations were invited to present evidence at the Spotlight Review meeting, including:

- Young people who had been service users of young people's mental health services
- Commissioners of children's mental health services (Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group)
- NHS providers of Children and Adolescent's Mental Health Services (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)
- Cheshire East Children's Social Care
- Adoption Counts
- Services commissioned by Cheshire East Council
- Education
- Integrated Youth Support Service
- Participation Service.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

6.1.1. There are no legal implications associated to the report and recommendations at this stage, however, there may be legal implications associated with the implication of any approved recommendations.

6.2. Finance Implications

6.2.1. The full list of recommendations, which are being made to Cabinet by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, have not yet been financially assessed. Further work would be required to capture the financial implications of any approved recommendations.

6.3. Policy Implications

6.3.1. There are no policy implications at this stage, however, the approval of any recommendations may result in policy changes.

6.4. Equality Implications

6.4.1. There are no equality implications.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

6.5.1. There are no human resources implications.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

6.6.1. There are no risk management implications.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

6.8.1. The recommendations are intended to improve the range and effectiveness of services and support for children and young people with mental health issues.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

6.10. Climate Change Implications

6.10.1. There are no direct climate change implications expected as a result of this report and its recommendations.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. No ward members are directly affected.

8. Consultation & Engagement

8.1. No formal consultation and engagement was required.

9. Access to Information

9.1. Access to the recording of the Spotlight Review meeting can be found here:
<http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=776&MIId=7849&Ver=4>

10. Contact Information

10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

Name: Joel Hammond-Gant

Job Title: Scrutiny Officer

Email: joel.hammond-gant@cheshireeast.gov.uk